

# ALL THINGS TO ALL MEN

1 Cor 9:19-23

A. The right to be financially supported.

1. God's representative. 2. Common sense 3. Biblical 4. For today

B. I have chosen not to use this right.

1. Understand my true motive 2. Understand my responsibility

3. Understand my future reward

Rights that not forsake:

## I. To Serve. 1 Corinthians 9:19

Not bound to anyone just because gives pay check

Bond slave by choice

Not under obligation

By choice, am under obligation to everyone.

Free slave.

Luther: *A Christian man is a free lord over all things and subject to nobody. A Christian man is a ministering servant in all things and subject to everybody.*

Because of love for others---chose to limit freedom

Willing to change life style...

Not willing to milk toast truth of God's Word

Willing to restrict freedom--to win the lost

Mac: *If a person is offended by God's Word, that is his problem. If he is offended by biblical doctrine, standards, or church discipline, that is his problem. That person is offended by God. But if he is offended by our unnecessary behavior or practices – no matter how good and acceptable those may be in themselves – his problem becomes our problem. It is not a problem of law but a problem of love, and love always demands more than the law ...*

Galatians 5:13

Under Mosaic Law a Jew could become another Jew's slave.

After 6 years offered freedom (Exo 21:2-6).

Could choose to become permanent slave.

Ear pierced as sign of voluntary enslavement.

Many Christians sold themselves into slavery to reach slave owners and slaves

## 2. To Show Deference (20-23) 1 Corinthians 9:20

Courteous regard or respect to opinions and judgments of others

### a. Jews.

Be as Jewish as could without violating Biblical principles.

Jews bound by traditions, laws, ceremonies, and rituals.

In order to reach Jewish people--gladly restrict freedom

Mac: *What had once been legal restraints now had become love restraints.*

Gromaki: *Paul accommodated his lifestyle and his methodology of presentation to the group he was trying to reach with the gospel. He did not alter his message or his morals. He was both firm and flexible at the same time.*

***Under the law:*** bound by rules and regulations of OT law

**b. Gentiles. 1 Corinthians 9:21** Paul willing to live like Gentiles in order to win Gentiles

Not referring to moral law of God

I am obedient to God's Word and to commands of Christ.

***Gain:*** win, acquire.

Difference between law and grace—motivation

OT—works

NT—relationship

1 Timothy 4:4-5

***Law of Christ?*** Power of clear conscience...Walking in the Spirit.

**c. Weak 1 Corinthians 9:22**

***Weak:*** lacking discernment. Without proper understanding of whole picture.

1 Corinthians 8:12

The weak? Those who need simple and repeated presentation of same basic truths.

Unable to comprehend Biblical principles

Willing to identify with immature ones in order to see them brought along for Christ.

*He stooped to their level of comprehension.*

Paul not implying that he is willing to compromise preaching or obedience to moral law of God in order to build bridge with people.

Even though he became all things to all men--long list of people who hated him

**1 Corinthians 9:23** I am practicing this in order for people to hear and believe gospel.

Motivation=Gain.

Spirit of apostles: *not satisfied with status quo.*

*Here for one reason – to win people...souls*

*22...: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.*

***Save:*** deliver, protect, rescue.

***Some:*** certain amount; certain indefinite or unspecified number.

## **SO WHAT?**

Gain! Jews...Gentiles...Weak